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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/684,112	STOCKINGER ET AL.	
	Examiner Zeev Kitov	Art Unit 2836	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 05/27/05.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 - 14, 16 - 31.
3. The drawings filed on 10 October 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____.
3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date <u>04/26/05</u>	7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment
4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material	8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
	9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Examiner acknowledges a submission of the amendment and arguments filed on May 27, 2005. Claim 15 is deleted; Claims 1, 6, 8, 9, 10, 18, 24, 25 - 30, and 31 are amended. Amendment and arguments have overcome objection and rejections under 112, 2nd paragraph, 102 (b) and 103(a).

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

An amended independent Claim 1 discloses, inter alia, "a fourth bus, a shunting circuit including a plurality of transistors in a stacked configuration, and intermediate terminal coupled to the fourth bus, wherein the shunting circuit is made conductive to provide a discharge path from the first bus to the second bus for current from ESD event". The closest reference for the claim is Miller, which discloses a first bus, a second bus and a third bus, a shunting circuit including a plurality of transistors, the shunting circuit having a plurality of control terminals, a first current terminal coupled to the first bus, and a second current terminal coupled to the second bus, wherein the shunting circuit is made conductive to provide a discharge path from the first bus to the second bus for current from an electrostatic discharge. It further discloses the pad coupled to the first bus, second bus and the third bus. However, it does not disclose the fourth bus with an intermediate terminal coupled to the fourth bus. Another reference, Takeda, discloses some elements of the claim, such as presence of the third bus.

However, it discloses neither the fourth bus, nor the intermediate node coupled to the fourth bus.

Another amended independent Claim 26 discloses, inter alia, a detection circuit coupled to a ground bus and to an internal node, the detection circuit detecting an ESD event via the internal node; and a pull-up circuit coupled to the internal node, to a boosted voltage bus, and to a positive power supply voltage bus; wherein during normal operation, the internal node is coupled to the positive power supply voltage bus; and during an ESD event, the internal node is coupled to the boosted voltage bus via a pull-up circuit, the boosted voltage bus being at a higher voltage than the positive power supply voltage during the ESD event. The closest reference to the claim is Miller, which discloses an internal node, the detection circuit detecting an ESD event via the internal node; wherein during normal operation, the internal node is coupled to a first bus; wherein during an ESD event, the internal node is coupled to a second bus via a pull-up circuit. Miller further discloses that during normal operation, the second bus is at a greater voltage than the first bus. However, it discloses neither the internal node being coupled to the boosted voltage bus via a pull-up circuit, nor the boosted voltage bus being at a higher voltage than the positive power supply voltage during the ESD event. As to Takeda reference, it discloses neither the boosted voltage bus, nor the bus being at a higher voltage than the positive power supply voltage during the ESD event.

An amended independent Claim 30 essentially recites over again the same limitation as Claim 26.

Allowability resides, at least in part, in the above-described limitations, which has not been disclosed in the Prior Art in a search.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Zeev Kitov whose telephone number is (571) 272-2052. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 – 4:30. If attempts to reach examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus can be reached on (571) 272 – 2800, Ext. 36. The fax phone number for organization where this application or proceedings is assigned is (703) 872-9306 for all communications.

Z.K.
06/23/2005



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